Minutes

Members Present:
*Laura Stachowski, IU Bloomington
*David Lindquist, IUPU Fort Wayne
Jonathan Hilpert, IUPU Fort Wayne
Terri Swim, IUPU Fort Wayne
*Bruce Spitzer, IU South Bend
*Dan Doerger, IU East
Aija Pocock, IUPU Columbus
*Larry Mikulecky, IU Bloomington
*Sheila-Marie Trzcinka, IU Northwest
*Linda Houser, IUPU Indianapolis
Gerardo Gonzales, Chair, IU Bloomington

Kokomo and Southeast – absent

Quorum was reached with seven votes (represented by * in the above list) present at 10:10 AM. Dean Gonzalez convened the meeting at 10:20 AM.

1) Approval of December 5, 2008, Minutes

Drs. Mikulecky and Trzcinka moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried: 7-0.

2) Information Item: BS/MS Program in Chemistry and Mathematics – Bloomington

Dean Gonzalez explained that this is a new approach to already-approved programs on the Bloomington campus. They have taken a bachelor’s program in the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) in chemistry and mathematics, and with agreement by stakeholder policy groups, integrated the COAS programs into a Master’s in Education. (Physics and biology may agree in the future.) Students major in the subject area. As seniors, they are admitted to the School of Education to complete the M.S. In their final semester, some coursework in the M.S. program counts towards the content area B.S.; vice versa. Candidates graduate with both a B.S. from COAS and M.S. in education within 5 years.

Dean Gonzalez added that the program is designed as a response to the demand for more math and science teachers. Students do not need to change majors in order to participate. He distributed a draft program sheet.

One concern raised in discussion was the licensure areas for specific COAS majors. A biology major is licensed in Life Science. Physics and Chemistry would be licensed in those particular areas, yet it is not clear as to the major(s) to include for licensure in Earth/Space Science and Physical Science.

The question was asked, “Is student teaching an elective [so listed on the draft program sheet]?” No, rather, student teaching is simply placed in the elective category of the current M.S. program, as it does not fit any other place. Student Teaching is not an elective for candidates selecting this dual degree option.
Other campuses desiring to do this need not get Education Council approval; it would simply be a change in the configuration of an approved program.

3) Early Childhood Education Articulation

The next program to be considered for articulation with Ivy Tech Community College is the Early Childhood Education program. Serving as a model is the common curriculum in the lower division for Elementary Education. Given that the common lower division curriculum has been agreed to by all campuses, the agreement is essentially system wide.

There are some possible issues with early childhood, given that Ivy Tech offers a “terminal” two-year associate’s degree. Students expect to leave the program prepared to work in an early childhood center. Ivy Tech wants IU campuses to take these students as juniors in their 4-year early childhood programs. This is problematic in that Ivy Tech’s curriculum does not include much liberal arts and science coursework.

Dean Gonzalez distributed a working document for campuses to fill in to begin the process of developing a framework for the Early Childhood program. Campuses with early childhood degrees are B, SB, FW, IUPUI (on moratorium), and KO. This document will be used to begin discussions about what would be the common lower division courses from individual campuses that offer Early Childhood degrees. There was a concern voiced about the lack of Special Education in the list of courses to be discussed, though the list does not include upper division courses. Members requested that the chart be sent electronically; Dean Gonzalez will ask that that be done.

There was some discussion about 60 vs. 64 vs. 67 credit hours transferring into IU. IU allows up to 64, and campuses should strive to maintain that maximum.

At this point, there is no change in the Elementary articulation.

4) Discussion Re: Indiana Board of Education Strategic Plan

Dean Gonzalez distributed a document that is the Education Strategic Plan written by the new state superintendent of public instruction, Tony Bennett.

Dean Gonzalez drew the Council’s attention to two items: Item 3, bullet 1: a family cannot sue because of a disciplinary measure used by a teacher or school corporation.

Item 3, bullet 2. Reform of teacher licensure so that any principal can hire anyone the principal feels is qualified to teach could come possibly under a banner of “deregulation.”

Question raised in discussion: how does this work with NCLB and “highly qualified” (HQ)? HQ means the teacher passes a test, such as Praxis II in the subject area(?). Were a teacher to not pass, then s/he would be not HQ?

Dean Gonzalez indicated there is some precedent for allowing schools authority to hire teachers without license and prepare teachers for license, e.g., in Florida.

There may be a need for Schools of Education and Deans to bring these issues to members of the legislature. Dean Gonzalez reminded all to work with IU Governmental Affairs offices in communicating with legislators. IU employees are not allowed to lobby.
Newly appointed Director Patrick Mapes of the Division of Educator Licensing and Development is not in favor of bullet 3:2. He does support bullet 3:3. The possibility of IU creating a program to work with Teach for America may need exploration. IU as an institution is not opposed to alternative routes to certification; the issue is the license qualification/process. Members recommended that standards not be removed to earn a license.

IU is poised best to produce the research-based evidence and lead the discussion about certification.

_Side conversation/discussion on a related theme:_ NCTQ – uses public records law to request documentation from Schools of Education. They have been known to request syllabi and compare them to research on best practices. Encourage faculty to ensure that syllabi are up-to-date including current reading lists, etc. These are the data this group is keying in on. IUPUI was recently contacted by NCTQ and has provided documents and included a narrative of context for the documents requested.

5) Elementary Common Lower Division Articulation Update – Practical Implications

Linda Houser sought clarification on the common lower division curriculum: some on her campus believe the common curriculum is to be followed only by Ivy Tech Community College students; that students at IUPUI may have additional or other curricular requirements. Response: the common lower division curriculum is created to facilitate both Ivy Tech students transferring into the IU system and to facilitate students within the IU system transferring to other campuses. It is not aimed at Ivy Tech only. All teacher education students are required to follow the same curriculum.

6) Education Council Constitution – Proposed Bylaw #7 Status Report

Dean Gonzalez reminded Council members that the By-Law 7 change needs to be voted on by individual campus Schools of Education policymaking bodies and the results reported to Dr. Jill Shedd. East, South Bend, Southeast and Fort Wayne already have voted and passed the amendment. Bloomington is voting next week.

7) 2009-2010 Meetings

The Council discussed possible dates for 09-10 meetings. Dean Gonzalez will explore possible dates in October when the meeting will be held in either Bloomington or Indianapolis; the spring meeting will be held in Richmond, IN, at IU East.

Discussion ensued on face-to-face vs. distance technology meetings. Several members spoke in favor of face-to-face meetings. The Council meets only once each semester, so the time requirement is not great. There is satisfaction in meeting and socializing. The Council took no action as a result of this discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully,

Dr. Bruce Spitzer
IU South Bend